

LOCAL RECORDER REPORT

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - April 2017

Part of my responsibility as the Recorder for Worlingworth is to produce an Annual Report to reflect what has happened and what has changed in the parish over the past calendar year i.e. 2016. I also have to collect the parish newsletters, leaflets and posters, newspaper cuttings and anything else I think is relevant. The purpose being to collect and observe today, as that will be tomorrow's history.

Geoff and I are the county organisers for the Recorder Scheme on behalf of SLHC, and constantly the same phrase is levelled at us '*nothing happens around here*', and it is easy to think that but by taking notes throughout the year it is amazing how many things do take place and how many changes there are. My Annual Report this year runs to 14 pages and I've yet to add photographs to accompany the text.

I would like to make a plea to all the organisers that they do let me know what their group is planning, taking part in, how much money they raised, what competitions they have won. Without input from the organisations I am left to pick up information from wherever I can and inevitably will miss interesting items.

Without duplicating participants at the Annual General Meeting I will pick up some of the things I came across this year.

A Socio-Economic Profile of the village was issued to the PC, giving the population as 802 made up of 156 children under 16 years of age, there are 510 adults aged 16-64 and 136 over 65 years. There are 316 occupied houses of which 227 are owned or with a mortgage.

There were a lot of planning applications in 2016 most of which were granted, but one application was refused following a lot of effort by the residents of Maisie's Meadow when a much loved, overgrown plot which is a haven to wildlife and a green division between them and Cordy's Meadow was proposed to have a bungalow and garage built on it. In preparing for the application, the developer began by cutting trees down on the site. The hedge was stopped from being rooted out by one resident who pointed out nesting birds. The saga of a mobile phone mast continues but hopefully sometime this year we will get good mobile signal. Only 4 houses appear to have sold last year in the village.

The Youth Club and Football Club discontinued through 2016 and there was a change of tutor at Zumba. Roger Lewis who ran the Oil Syndicate had to step down after running it since 2007 but Anne-Marie Kennedy volunteered to take over from him.

A new event this year was the Car Treasure Hunt and also a Photographic Exhibition with a view to create a calendar.

The Over 60s group had 8 outings travelling to places such as Snape Maltings and Norwich and comedian, Stephen Bayfield entertained at the Over 65s Xmas party.

A noteworthy event during the year was the celebration of the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth. Worlingworth celebrated with a birthday tea with 2 honorary guests each celebrating their 90th birthdays, a special cake, the school children visited to sing and were then being presented with a commemorative birthday medal to remember the event by the PC. A medal was also given to the church, school and CC to display. There was also a 'Picnic in the Park' held to celebrate the birthday although due to the damp weather this moved inside the building.

Ginny Wells had a successful year winning several equestrian competitions and being selected to represent England for the first time.

I will finish by recalling a very special visitor. To be exact, our village is Worlingworth cum Southolt, and therefore the reporting of a Hoopoe could perhaps be included as it probably flew over Worlingworth to reach Southolt. It is rare to see this bird at any time in the UK but a number of local residents watched it, photographed and videoed it. After two days it flew away - but it was fun while it lasted.